

Maine Water News

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

January 2015, Number 179

...Any Road Will Take You There

Jefferson Longfellow, 2014 President

One of my favorite sayings is "Failing to plan is planning to fail" by Alan Lakein. The short, concise sentence says much, that's one of the reasons I like the quote. The Maine Water Utilities Association will be undertaking a strategic planning session on January 21st to help shape the future of MWUA. This event will need input from all to make it an effective process. New England Water Works Association went through this process this past summer. It was an interesting process because they are coming up to a cross roads where two key employees will be retiring in the near future. This was the first step in developing where they want to be in the impending years.

One of the reasons such a session is important is that it will take the time to get input from the membership to look beyond today and to develop a vision for tomorrow. Will it be perfect? No, but it will be a plan to map out a future, rather than continuously look at the past.

It has been a few years since the last time such a planning session was done. Was Face Book, Twitter, and the prevalence of smart phones a consideration then? The world is constantly changing, and as an organization, we must look to the future too. When the last session was conducted, it was not perfect, but it did provide a roadmap for the future.

Hopefully at this meeting, we will be able to refine MWUA's future, set some objectives to reach that future, and then to craft a strategy to meet the objectives. These tasks will take time, but will be worthwhile to look into the future and allow the organization to confront the changes that the world will be bringing the organization and the changes that affect our "day jobs." I am sending out an invitation to all to attend the meeting at the Governor Hill Mansion on the 21st. As I started, failing to plan is planning to fail.



The December Meeting

It was a nice venue and a good turnout for the December bimonthly, the topic being "Regional Solutions for Tomorrow's Challenges".

The welcome from Saco Mayor Don Pilon and also Tom Carr's overview of improvements and other activities at the Biddeford-Saco Division of Maine Water Company both emphasized the level of economic activity in the region.

In addition to the regulatory and legislative updates, President Longfellow announced that Rick Anair, Mike Broadbent and Alan Hitchcock had been elected as Directors. The membership acted on a recommendation from the Directors and amended the bylaws so as to allow for one Associate member to serve on the Board.

Committee co-chairs presented their annual committee reports, highlighting all the good work performed by the committees throughout the year. While it may not be obvious to some, even a short look back over time reveals the many significant accomplishments – on many fronts – that are the results of the efforts of this dedicated group of volunteers.

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**Material of interest to the water supply
profession will be considered for publication.
Copy deadline is the 15th day of month
preceding publication.**

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The technical program featured a couple of veteran waterworks guys and Executive Directors from the Greater Portland Council of Governments and the Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission.

Southern Maine Regional Water Council President Dave Parent reviewed the impetus for and the activities of the council. He was followed by Richard Knowlton, Vice President of Maine Water Company, who discussed the future treatment plant needs for the Biddeford – Saco Division.

While it is true that the Biddeford – Saco plant is in need of updating, a front and center issue is the fact that the Saco River is the source of supply that everyone realizes is large enough to accommodate southern Maine's public water supply needs in the future.

That raises a number of questions. Do you build a plant that just meets your anticipated needs for a set period of time? Do the needs of the other southern Maine systems enter into the equation and, if so, to what extent or under what terms? What are the logistical details of moving water back and forth between the southern Maine systems? How large would that pipe be? Who would own and maintain it? And - dare we ask - do you stop at the border?

Neal Allen & Paul Schumacher, Executive Directors of the Greater Portland Council of Governments and Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission, respectively, were up next. They provided an interesting overview of their roles in this regional dialogue. Their wrap up was most interesting in that they closed with what they described as a provocative question: *Given the lack of water resources in many sections of the country and the importance of water to public and environmental health, overall quality of life and economic development, should the state establish a water resource extraction fee?*

A provocative question it was. A few veterans of Maine's recent water allocation war responded and were clear in expressing the view that not everyone in southern Maine felt that was such a good idea.

The southern Maine source of supply questions are varied, and few have been answered. It is unlikely that the answers will come easily.

Last December, our "Succession Planning" speaker characterized what we do as a "satisfying struggle". He opined that conflict is a very important tool, stating that we do not get change without conflict. Further he stated that if change were easy, we would have chaos, because it would just be bouncing from pillar to post and that while conflict is hard, if we learn how to conflict with each other constructively, honestly, openly - and communicate - we can do good things.

One is encouraged that these systems are blessed with managers who are, indeed, dynamic personalities. The council, closing in on its 10th birthday, provides a solid platform for constructive dialogue and, we can only hope, facilitated conflict that produces good things.

Succession being what it is, it may be the next generation that finally answers those questions.

Meet us in Portland for the February Meeting & Trade Show

MWUA's 89th Annual February Meeting and Trade Show will be held on Tuesday, February 3rd and Wednesday, February 4th, 2015 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, in Portland, Maine. Once again, the conference will be cosponsored by NEWWA and Maine Water Environment Association (MEWEA). The times for the lunch on the trade show floor Tuesday have been extended to provide additional opportunity for attendees to mingle with

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exhibitors. The Trade Show Meet and Greet with chowder and beverages will be held on Tuesday, from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. The Business Luncheon will be held on Wednesday from 12:00 noon to 1:30 PM. There will be a variety of sessions available on both these days. This training will include classroom sessions and product demonstrations on the trade show floor.

The conference brochure and online registration is available at www.mwua.org, and the registration form is included on page 7 of this newsletter. Please register by January 23rd to take advantage of the early registration discounts!

Alternatives to registering online include faxing the registration form or mailing a form via snail mail.

USG Acquires Water Well Services Business

Utility Service Group (USG) recently announced that it has finalized the acquisition of Water Well Solutions Group (WWSG). WWSG provides water well services throughout the upper mid-western U.S. USG's Water Well Management Program is a custom-designed preventative maintenance program that includes

regularly scheduled cleaning and monitoring to maintain peak performance, lower operational costs and extend well asset service life. The acquisition of Water Well Solutions enhances USG's water well services product offering by providing extended capabilities and expertise.

Utility Service Group (www.utilityservice.com) is a fully integrated professional service and contracting firm dedicated to providing sustainable products and services for potable water distribution systems and sewage collection systems.

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Legislative Session Off to an Interesting Start

The November election set the stage for the next four years in Augusta. Governor Paul LePage was reelected and the Republicans ended up with a solid majority in the Senate. The Democrats retained control of the House, albeit with a smaller majority than they had previously held.

For the water profession, the big news is that Question # 6, the bond referendum that included match money for the Drinking Water and Clean Water SRF cap grants, was approved.

The outcomes have implications for the profession, on several fronts.

During the upcoming 127th Maine Legislature committee chairs will include a Democrat in the House seat and a Republican in the Senate seat.

The Energy and Utilities Committee will be chaired by newly elected Senator David Woodsome from Waterboro and Representative Mark Dion from Portland. Dion is a returning legislator who served on the EUT Committee during the 125th. More than half the EUT Committee are new members.

The Environment and Natural Resource

committee will be chaired by veteran lawmakers. Senator Thomas Saviello of Wilton is the Senate Chair and Joan Welsh of Rockport is the House chair.

Governor LePage will be nominating a PUC Commissioner soon, as Chairman Tom Welch is retiring as the end of 2014. Commissioner David Littell's term expires in 2015.

Given the reelection of Governor LePage, it is not expected that there will be major personnel changes at agencies or other administrative positions.

Legislation Submitted to Address Gas Expansion

The rapid expansion of natural gas infrastructure in the state has led to conflicts with other buried facilities. The lack of adequate separation standards has resulted in the installation of gas facilities that compromise the ability of water or sewer utilities to safely access their facilities. Recently, many sewer facilities have been bored through when horizontal drilling was used to install gas lines.

The association, in concert with the Maine Water Environment Association, is submitting legislation this session in an attempt to accomplish two objectives.

The intent of the proposed legislation is to establish more comprehensive gas line construction standards and, also, to improve the written location permitting process for the installation of facilities in the public way.

The construction standards address clearance from other buried facilities, crossing of utilities, installation and post installation continuity testing of pipe marking tape or tracer wire, and notification of other utilities when current is applied to gas facilities for the purpose of corrosion protection.

Changes to the written location permitting process would require that evidence of coordination among utilities be provided prior to submittal of the written location permit application, and also specify that the applicable licensing authority would resolve location conflicts when utilities cannot reach agreement.

It is expected that the bill will be heard by the EUT Committee. The two associations have been meeting, and will continue to meet, with stakeholders concerning this issue.

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Chapter 615 Rules Deliberated by Commission

On December 16th the Public Utilities Commission moved the adoption of Chapter 615: Exemptions from Regulatory Requirements for Consumer Owned Water Utilities one step closer, as they held deliberations on Docket # 2014-00215.

Commissioners discussed a number of aspects of the rule including various ratios, which apparently will be used as benchmarks when requests for exemption are considered.

It is expected that the final will be made available in January of 2015.

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Van Buren Watershed Highlighted

Excerpted From the Bangor Daily News

A conservation easement on 333 acres of Van Buren Water District property in Cyr Plantation was recently established to protect Violette Brook and a reservoir that once served as the system's water supply.

Water District Manager Skip Dumais and his three-member board of trustees have crafted the plan,

which according to Dumais "fell into place in little pieces".

In his 20 years as water district manager, Dumais has seen a popular trail system evolve from trails originally built for access to maintain the dam at the reservoir.

The 14 mile system of 10-foot-wide trails, which connects to a trail into town, has been used by cross-country skiers, hikers, birders, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles. High school students working as summer interns laid out many of the trails.

The Violette Brook watershed also is popular for hunting, fishing, kayaking and canoeing. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has identified high quality brook trout habitat on the brook.

The water district partnered with the Forest Society of Maine and submitted successful grant applications to the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program, the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, the John Sage Foundation and the Aroostook County Fund of the Maine Community Foundation. The funding covered costs such as baseline documentation, a stewardship endowment, legal fees, construction estimates and wetlands mitigation.

The conservation program application required an ecological assessment by the Maine Natural Areas Program. That assessment identified significant wetland habitats and two culverts that impair stream flow and fish passage.

As a result, state-of-the-art bottomless culverts will be installed to normalize stream flow and restore fish passage.

Dumais and water district Clerk Craig Troeger noted that the future of the land depends upon young people.

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**MAINE WATER UTILITIES ASSOCIATION
89th ANNUAL FEBRUARY MEETING & TRADE SHOW
February 3-4, 2015**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Title: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- Option 1:** Mail completed registration form with payment to: **Maine Water Utilities Association**
Option 2: Fax registration to: (207) 623-9522 **150 Capitol Street, Suite 5**
Option 3: Register online at: www.mwua.org **Augusta, ME 04330**

EVENT REGISTRATION – Please check all that apply

Registration & Name Badges are required for attendance at all sessions and events. Pre-Registration closes January 30, 2015

***Young professionals are individuals that have been in the water or wastewater profession for 3 years or less.*

	Register by 01/23/15	Registrations Received after 01/23/15
<input type="checkbox"/> TWO-DAY FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	\$200/Person	\$210/Person
<input type="checkbox"/> TWO-DAY FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION – YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**	\$125/Person	\$125/Person

Two-Day Full Conference Registration Includes:

- Tuesday & Wednesday Training Sessions (including material handouts & certificates)
- Tuesday's Lunch on Trade Show Floor & Trade Show Meet & Greet
- Wednesday's Training Sessions, Luncheon, & Trade Show Attendance (as well as coffee & pastries)

<input type="checkbox"/> ONE-DAY TUESDAY ONLY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	\$100/Person	\$110/Person
<input type="checkbox"/> ONE-DAY TUESDAY ONLY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION–YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**	\$65/Person	\$65/Person

Tuesday Sessions 1 – 13 & Product Demos 1 & 2 Include Lunch on the Trade Show Floor

<input type="checkbox"/> Session 1: Facility Security: Are You Prepared For an Emergency?	8:00 AM – 11:15 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 2: Keeping Up with Technology	8:00 AM – 11:15 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 3: Sound Procedures for Drinking Water Sampling	8:00 AM – 11:15 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 4: Water Disinfection Options for Pathogen Control	8:00 AM – 11:15 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 5: Analyzing Flow Data for Proper Sizing of Pumps	8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 6: Choosing the Right Centrifugal Pump for the Application	9:15 AM – 10:15 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 7: Force Main Fundamentals and Common Issues	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 8: Why Use PACP and MACP Condition and O&M Ratings for Your Sewers and Manholes?	1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 9: Projecting Professionalism	2:30 PM – 3:30 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 10: Utilizing EPA Web Tools to Deal with Water Contamination Issues	1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 11: Regulatory Update	1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 12: Writing Skills for Water Professionals	1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 13: Preparing For and Responding to Customer Water Quality Complaints	1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Product Demo #1: Project Management Demonstrations (limited to first 10 registrants).....	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Product Demo #2: Monitoring/Control Demonstrations (limited to first 10 registrants).....	2:15 PM – 3:15 PM

<input type="checkbox"/> ONE-DAY WEDNESDAY ONLY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	\$100/Person	\$110/Person
<input type="checkbox"/> ONE-DAY WEDNESDAY ONLY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION – YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**	\$65/Person	\$65/Person

Wednesday Sessions 14 – 21 & Product Demos 3 - 5 Include the Luncheon

<input type="checkbox"/> Session 14: Basics of an Organizational / Operational Analysis: Building an Effective Team	8:00 AM – 11:30 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 15: Construction Inspection	8:00 AM – 11:30 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 16: Math & Basic Hydraulics for Water with a Focus on Distribution Practices	8:00 AM – 11:30 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 17: Distribution System Fire Flow Requirements: How Does Your System Measure Up?	8:00 AM – 11:30 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Product Demo #3: T & D Demonstrations (limited to first 10 registrants).....	8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Product Demo #4: Project Management Demonstrations (limited to first 10 registrants).....	9:15 AM – 10:15 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Product Demo #5: T & D Demonstrations (limited to first 10 registrants)	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 18: Integration of Office, Customer Service & Operational Processes	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 19: Trustee Boot Camp	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 20: Pipe Saw, Chainsaw & Pole Saw Safety: Safe Tree Felling Practices	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 21: Fire Flows and Backflow Prevention: The Balancing Act of Water Quality and Public Safety	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

<input type="checkbox"/> WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON ONLY	\$35/Person	\$45/Person
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<input type="checkbox"/> WEDNESDAY TRADE SHOW ONLY	N/C	N/C
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Maine Water Utilities Association is a non-profit membership organization which was organized in 1925. The mission of the Maine Water Utilities Association is to represent the water works professional membership in advocating safe drinking water through education, legislation, policy and networking.

MAINE WATER NEWS
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